

# HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**

### **General**

1. **Who decides what fire alarm and fire sprinkler deferred submittal plans can be reviewed in the field?**

The decision to review these plans is based on OSHPD staff workload. The “field” Fire and Life Safety Officer decides what fire alarm and fire sprinkler deferred submittal plans are reviewed in the field. The OSHPD FREER Manual is used as a guide for these projects. Please refer to:

[www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/PlanReview/Documents/FREER.PDF](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/PlanReview/Documents/FREER.PDF).

2. **What are the code requirements for temporary construction barriers?**

Please refer to OSHPD’s Code Application Notice (CAN) 9-8705.4 at:

[www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/9-8705-4.pdf](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/9-8705-4.pdf).

### **Smoke Barriers**

1. **The 2001 California Building Code Section 308.2.2.1 states that the area of a smoke zone must not exceed 150 feet in length or width. Does this mean that both the length and width must not exceed 150 feet? Please clarify.**

The intent of Section 308.2.2.1 is to limit the travel distance from any point in the smoke zone to a smoke barrier door; therefore, neither the length nor the width is allowed to exceed 150 feet.

2. **Are smoke compartment walls required to be provided in ground level lobbies?**

Smoke compartments are required if the lobby is a Group I, Division 1.1 occupancy and has an occupant load of 50 persons or more. Please refer to 2001 California Building Code Section 308.2.2.1.

### **General Building Limitations**

*[Space reserved for future questions.]*

## **Fire-resistant Materials and Construction**

1. **In non-combustible construction, is a fire block required at the corridor ceiling?**

No. Section 708.1, 2001 California Building Code, states that fire blocks are required in combustible construction in the locations described in Section 708.2.1.

2. **When is a T-Rating required for penetrations?**

Section 710.2, 2001 California Building Code, governs penetration firestop systems for through penetrations of floors, floor-ceiling, and roof-ceiling assemblies.

## **Fire Alarm**

1. **Are conduits and boxes allowed to be installed prior to OSHPD's approval of a fire alarm deferred submittal?**

No. Title 24, Part 1, Section 7-153(d) 2, requires that submittal documents must be approved by the OSHPD prior to the installation of deferred submittal items.

2. **Where should the pull station be located in relationship to an exit?**

Section 2-8.2.2, NFPA 72, 1999 edition, states that manual fire alarm boxes must be located within five feet of the exit doorway opening at each exit on each floor.

## **Fire/Smoke Dampers (FSD)**

1. **Can a horizontal FSD be used at the top of a shaft or does a rated enclosure "dog house" need to be constructed so the installation of a vertical FSD can be used?**

If the damper is listed for the application, as required by Section 703.4, 2001 California Building Code, additional framing or a "dog house" will not be needed.

## **Means of Egress**

1. **What code requirement applies to access control devices (magnetic locks) on path of egress doors?**

The 2001 California Building Code Section 1003.3.1.10 covers special egress control devices in I-Occupancies.

2. **When remodeling a hospital where the exit passageways contain waiting areas and security desks, do all exit passageways need to be in compliance with Section 1005.3.4.1 of the 2001 California Building Code?**

OSHDP's Code Application Notice (CAN) 2-34 relates to this scope of work. Please refer to CAN 2-34: [www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/2-34.pdf](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/2-34.pdf).

**3. Does OSHPD allow the installation of alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers in corridors?**

Yes, with some restrictions. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not specifically regulated in the Title 24, California Building Standards Code. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has issued Code Interpretation 04-006, which addresses Title 19, California Code of Regulations requirements for alcohol-based hand sanitizers dispensed from permanently mounted dispensers within corridors in medical facilities. The OSFM code interpretation states that the dispensers must comply with the provisions of the California Building Code (CBC) regarding projections into the width of corridors. CBC Sections 1004.3.3.2, 1004.3.4.2, and 1133B.8.6.1 address objects protruding from walls into hallways, corridors and passageways. These code sections limit the location and distance the dispensers are allowed to protrude. If dispensers are shown on construction plans submitted to OSHPD for review, the OSHPD will review them for compliance with these code sections.

During site visits, OSHPD staff will not require the removal of dispensers that are not related to an OSHPD construction project. Issues involving these dispensers are under the jurisdiction of the local fire authority.